

TO THE OUNDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1955 & 1956

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report on the health of Oundle during the years 1955 and 1956. Owing to the fact that the Council were without a Public Health Inspector for the six months from April to September, 1955, it was considered impracticable to produce a useful report for 1955 alone and accordingly it was decided to prepare a report covering the two years.

During the years under review the statistics indicate that the health of the town has been good. There has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease; the birth rates and death rates are comparable with those for England and Wales. The population has remained more or less stationary at 3110. There are 742 inhabitable houses according to the Rate Books at the end of 1956. The rateable value of the town is £26,599 and a penny rate produces £100.

Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate: 1955 = 15.9 per 1,000 (England and Wales - 15.0)
 1956 = 19.3 per 1,000 (England and Wales - 15.7)

	<u>1955</u>		<u>1956</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Live Births	17	17	16	25
Legitimate	17	17	16	24
Stillborn	-	-	1	-

Deaths.

<u>Total Deaths.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
1955 = 25.	12	13
1956 = 33.	18	15

Death Rate:

1955 = 6.6 per 1,000 (England and Wales - 11.7)
 1956 = 9.4 per 1,000 (England and Wales - 11.7)

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Cancer	5	8
Heart Diseases	14	14
Pneumonia	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	1	4
Accidents	1	1

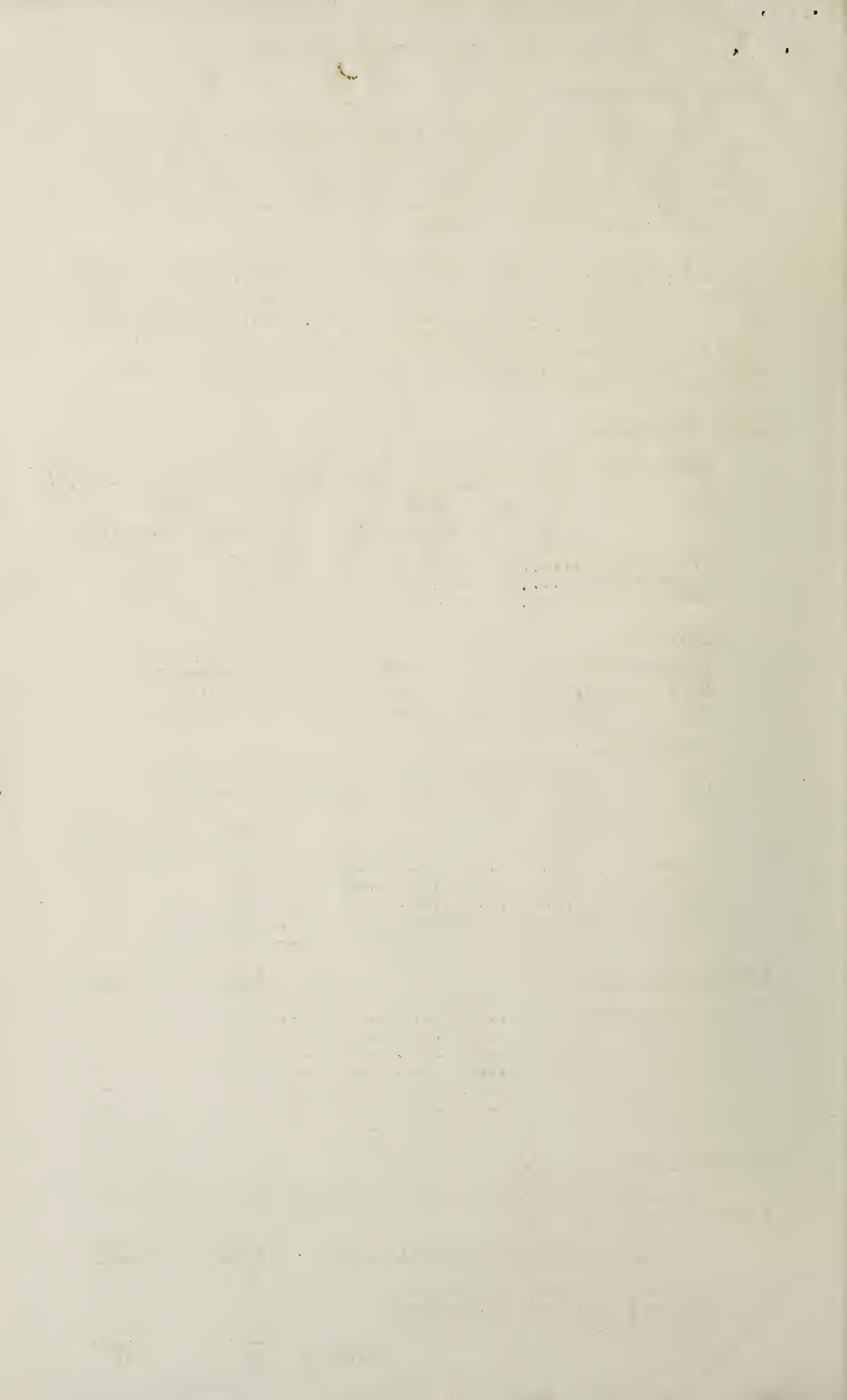
Infectious Diseases

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Scarlet Fever	5	-
Pneumonia	3	1
Measles	2	1
Whooping Cough	2	1
Tuberculosis	2	-
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation of children has continued. No cases of diphtheria have been reported.

<u>Number of immunisations carried out.</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Diphtheria immunisation only.	5	1
Combined diphtheria & whooping cough immunisation	17	16
TOTAL -	<u>22</u>	<u>17</u>



Poliomyelitis Immunisation.

1955

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1956

11.

General Provisions of Health Service.

Medical Officer of Health: M.J.Pleydell, M.C., M.D., B.S.,
D.P.H.,

Surveyor, Water Engineer & Sanitary Inspector:

A.Healy, Cert S.I.B., M.R.S.I.

District Nurses: Nurse Missen, S.R.N. & Nurse Cates, S.R.N.

Rating & Valuation Officer: A.B.A.Wright.

Health Visitor: Miss Miller.

Sanitary Circumstances of the area.

Water Supply.

Water samples were taken regularly throughout the year. The results of bacteriological analyses were satisfactory in every case. Despite good results, however, reports from the Surveyor indicate that the water pumping plant has now outlived it's usefulness and that it is advisable for the Council to obtain an alternative source. If a breakdown in the pumping machinery were to occur it might prove difficult to get the machinery into order again. For this reason steps should be taken to obtain a fresh water supply for the town.

Sewage Plant.

As reported in 1954 the sewage effluent does not comply with the standards recommended by the Royal Commission of Sewage Disposal. The river below the effluent outfall is heavily polluted by the town sewage and it is desirable that this should be remedied as soon as possible.

Housing.

Since 1945, 88 houses have been completed by the Council and 30 by private builders. There is an urgent need for more housing accommodation, and this is probably the most serious public health problem in Oundle.

Swimming Bath.

In the past the water for the open air swimming bath has been obtained from the river Nene which flows nearby. Analyses of samples of the river water indicated that it was heavily polluted with sewage and therefore was unsatisfactory unless it could be filtered and purified. After thorough and careful consideration, it was decided that the expenditure necessary to bring the swimming bath up to the standard recommended in the model bye laws, could not be justified. Accordingly the use of the bath was discontinued in 1956.

Factory Act.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

(See over-leaf).

1955

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspection (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	10	2	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.				
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	13	6	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	13	8	NIL	NIL

1956

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspection (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local authorities.	10	10	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.				
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	11	15	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	11	25	NIL	NIL

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

1955 - NIL

1956 - NIL.

PART VIII of the Act.

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

1955 - NIL

1956 - NIL.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

M.J.Pleydell, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.

(Oundle, June 1956)

OUNDLIE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF WATERWORKS ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR - For the Period 1955/56.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

The annual report for the Oundle Urban District and a summary of the works completed during the years 1955/56 are submitted herewith for your consideration.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water supplies throughout the period were subject to some fluctuation at the Barnwell Road source but no material disturbance occurred in distribution as the Cottestock connection was readily available to augment supplies. The mixing of the two waters did result in a harder water being distributed than the district was normally accustomed to, but no great number of complaints arose because of this. Fluctuation in supplies from Barnwell Road must to a great extent be due to silting of the feeder pipes into the well as there seems to be a definite limit to what can be pumped during the requisite working period.

During the years a 6" trunk main was laid along Milton Road through the school fields and linked up to the existing 4" main on Glapthorne Road. This was executed to assist in boosting supplies at the northern end of Glapthorne Road and figures as the first part of a general scheme to bring about improved pressure in the services. At some future date when an additional reservoir is built, a new 9" main from this reservoir will link up with this present 6" main and a general improvement will result from this scheme.

A 3" main extension along South Road was also executed to serve the needs of the new Secondary Modern School Canteen. The County Council assisted in the cost of laying this main.

Considerable night testing of services was executed throughout the district but no larger leaks were found. Minor leaks were repaired forthwith.

A new 6" valve was inserted at the junction of West Street/ New Street to give more effective control and segregation from other areas.

Routine skimming of filter beds, replacement and repair of hydrants, fixing of water meters, stopcocks, replacement of tap washers and minor repairs have continued throughout.

18 Water samples were despatched for analysis all of which proved satisfactory.

The proposals to build further houses around the Rock Road area will in due course add to the pressure difficulties on Glapthorne Road and the Council will at no distant date have to seriously consider the enlarging or duplication of the present 4" main which extends from the Hospital to the George Inn.

BATHING POOL.

The pool which seemed to enjoy great popularity during the summer of 1955 was after due representation closed down and not re-opened for the 1956 season. This arose by reason of the extreme difficulty in trying to attain a suitable standard of cleanliness in the water and the grave risks to health which users were exposed to.

Water used in the pool came from the River Nene where considerable contamination occurred and the rather crude system

offiltration and chlorination did not reduce the danger of bathing in what was stagnant water.

The Council did their best to find a method of improvement but the heavy costs entailed proved prohibitive.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Refuse collections were maintained throughout the year only slight disruption occurring during some arctic weather.

Some difficulties were experienced at the tip but bulldozing the spoil out to level formation added considerably to the tip life.

A further site for this purpose adjacent to our present tipping site is in process of being acquired.

SALVAGE.

The collecting, sorting and piling of waste paper and cardboard has continued throughout. Prices have remained fairly stable and no difficulty has been found in disposing of the salvage collected.

RODENT CONTROL.

Rodent control work has proceeded on a satisfactory basis throughout. The area is generally free from major infestations.

Regular treatments are given to the Refuse Tip and Sewage Works.

The town sewers have been tested and baited on three occasions. 10% of manholes were treated and negative results were obtained.

HOUSING.

No new houses have been built by the Council during the period under review but works in connection with the erection of 8 houses and 12 flats are well advanced and work on these will commence within the immediate future.

5 new houses for private owners have been erected or are in the course of erection. One house has been improved under a statutory grant and one other is pending. One house has been closed as unfit for human habitation. Four others were demolished as a clearance area.


Slum clearance duties are being dealt with from time to time but no real impetus can be given to this problem until there is a prospect of rehousing the displaced persons. Further, some time and thought will have to be given to houses on West and North Streets which figure on the prepared list. A policy of clearing of stone built houses and substituting brick houses as replacements would completely mar the Town's Character.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

New male and female Public Conveniences were erected at the rear of the Council Offices by the conversion of certain out-buildings for this purpose. These works were executed by Direct Labour at a cost of approximately £720.

SEWERS & SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The works functioned normally during the years but some



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considerable improvements are long overdue and the plant may be considered to have outlived it's useful life. Effluents discharged into the River Nene are of an extremely poor standard and no improvement can be brought about in this whilst the present system operates.

The small area of land utilised for effluent disposal is totally inadequate for the volume of liquid pumped thereon and whilst lime has been liberally applied to the land no real improvement can be accomplished without a prolonged rest of the land from further flooding.

The existing plant cannot hope to cope with the new houses contemplated and no doubt this factor will be kept in the forefront when discussing improvements and policy.

Some slight trouble was experienced with the blocking of Benefield Road sewer.

CEMETERY.

The Cemetery was maintained at it's usual high standard and Mr. Hankins must be commended upon his standard of work here.

Improvements scheduled at the curators house could not be proceeded with because of labour shortage and difficulties.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Two Slaughter houses are licensed in the town and occasional slaughtering has taken place. Carcases are inspected as to their fitness for human consumption.

Two milk dealers are licensed annually for the sale of designated milk.

Four applications were received for the sale of ice cream all of which were approved.

The following foodstuffs were inspected and condemned during the year -

Canned Fruit	-	4 cans
Dried "	-	14lbs.
Canned Soup	-	6 cans.
" Vegetables	-	5 "
" Milk	-	1 "
" Livers	-	20 lbs.
" Meats	-	60 lbs.
Fresh "	-	24 lbs.
Rice	-	7 lbs.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Drainage	-	75
Moveable Dwellings		12
Refuse Tip		30
Water Supply		249
Bathing Pool		7
Housing Complaints		320
Food Premises		25
Food Inspection		35
Rodent infestations		65
Cemetery		28
Infectious Disease		4

850 Total.

GENERAL.

The general services functioned quite smoothly throughout that period under review and no serious breakdowns occurred.

Whilst every effort will be made to press on with the Council's scheduled plan of Slum Clearance there are many calls on the Officer responsible for this work and some help may be required to complete the works within the five year period specified.

In submitting a general report for 1955/56 no doubt it will be appreciated that I only took up office in September 1955 and my predecessor had vacated the post in April 1955.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. Healy.

